

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Web or sheet-fed segment processing apparatus (30, 300) is provided for high speed, extremely accurate operations such as die cutting or lamination. The apparatus (30, 300) includes a processing station (32, 300) adapted to receive a segment (38) forming a part of a continuous web (100, 102) or as a discrete sheet. The station (32, 300) includes a vacuum hold-down plate (142, 306) for holding initially fed segments (38); the hold-down plate (32, 308) is shiftable as necessary along orthogonal X-Y axes in the plane of the segment (38), and/or θ rotation about a rotational axis transverse to the segment plane, such movement being effected by a series of aligned, translatable eccentric drive units (178-182, 346-350) coupled with plate (142, 306). Preferably, the segments (38) carry positioning fiducials (44) and which are compared with fixed reference indicia (250, 252) in the station (32, 300). Such comparison data is used by a controller (254) to generate the necessary movement information used in simultaneous operation of the associated plate drive units (178-182, 346-350). The apparatus (32) is especially adapted for the production of small ceramic capacitors.